Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN

Winter 2022, vol. 67, no. 1









Known Loved Prepared



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6 Alumni Reunion

9 Alumni News Elizabeth Eby

12 Alumni News Marissa Smucker





Cover photos:

Top Left:
Third graders doing their morning routine of song, moving, and stretching.

Top Center:
6th grader Ingrid Lund doing a science experiment trying to remove oil from water.

Top Right:
4th grade students love on the Bethany chickens during chore time.

Center Left:
4th grader Weston Rassi poses for a picture during outdoor art class.

Center Right:
Sophomores harvesting vegetables from the Bethany garden.

Bottom Center:
Juniors helping bread fish during the Senior Class Fish Fry.

Bottom Right:
Eighth graders give presentations to the 5th graders after both grades studied Native American Tribes.

Inquiries about joining the Bethany community can be directed to admissions@bethanycs.net.

Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN
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Excited about the Future

Big changes are coming to Bethany Christian Schools in the form of primary students. This year we welcomed our first third-grade class, and in **2022-23 we will add first and second grades.** Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious!

Our current primary students are excited to learn. There is very little shyness or timidity about them, and they are willing to try just about anything. They like to move around, sing, run, and jump for no apparent reason other than joy. Our teachers are experts at guiding and focusing this energy as students explore and learn about their world.

In this issue, alumni tell their stories of being **known, loved, and prepared.** Elizabeth Eby ('18) shares a memory of being known during senior Bible class (p 9). The Kehr/Heinzekehr family expresses their love for Bethany through the generations (p 11). Marisa Smucker ('90) credits experiences at Bethany for preparing her for a new leadership role (pp12-13). We hope to gather additional stories from our alumni in the coming months as we send out an alumni survey this spring.

We have been grateful for the return to some normalcy this year, even as we dealt with additional Covid-related uncertainty. We appreciated the joy and connection of in-person activities once again. During the alumni reunion, classmates gathered in the Friendship Garden, classrooms, and gyms, sharing memories of the past (pp 6-7). Additionally, we held several musical and drama performances (pp 4-5). This year's first-ever Christmas Gala was well-received, bringing grades 3-12 together for a holiday celebration of the arts.

We are excited about the changes coming to Bethany. **Now, families have the opportunity to start their child's journey in our dynamic learning community – known, loved, and prepared!**



Tim Lehman, Ed. D.
Head of School

DEATHS

Mark Hostetler ('55)
Indianapolis, IN, Jan. 23, 2020
Genie Kehr ('56)
Goshen, IN, Nov. 7, 2021
Marie Miller ('56)
Goshen, IN, July 10, 2021
Marion K Yoder ('56)
Goshen, IN, Sep. 27, 2021
Shirley Yoder Lapp ('59)
Lansdale, PA, Aug. 2, 2021
Rollin Newcomer ('61)
Wakarusa, IN, Sep. 4, 2021
Wayne E Davidhizar ('62)
Wooster, OH, May 17, 2021
Darrell Kauffman ('63)
Goshen, IN, Sep. 21, 2021
Bonnie Weldy Miesel ('63)
Morley, MI, Mar. 28, 2021
Mel Kauffman ('66)
Elkhart, IN, Apr. 28, 2021
Daryl D. Yoder ('65)
Goshen, IN, July 17, 2021
Charles "Chuck" Kaufman ('70)
Tucson, AZ, Dec. 28, 2021
Stanley Martin ('76)
Bonners Ferry, ID, Aug. 10, 2021
Tricia Blosser ('91)
South Bend, IN, Oct. 27, 2021
Mark Eichorn ('97)
Sturgis, MI, Sep. 9, 2021

BIRTHS

Brenna Steury Graber ('03) and Brad Graber, Goshen, IN, son Clark Douglas, Oct. 31, 2021

Elizabeth Nafziger ('06) and Jordan Miller, Goshen, IN, son Owen Daniel, Sep. 16, 2021

Becc and **Simon Smucker ('07),** Goshen, IN, daughter Ruby Adina, July 30, 2021

Bekah and **Joey Miller (ng'08)**, Stoystown, PA, son Thaddeus John, Dec. 1, 2021

Marissa Melidor ('10) and Bensly, Alva, FL, son Zion Lee, Sep. 20, 2021

Samantha and **Cody Yoder ('12)**, Bristol, IN, daughter Berkley Janae, Jan 1, 2022

Lauren Hooley ('11) and Brayden Foreman, Marion, IN, son Carsen Oliver, Dec. 23, 2021

Katelyn Hochstetler (F'18-) and Philip, Goshen, IN daughter Harper Kate, Sep. 20, 2021

MARRIAGES

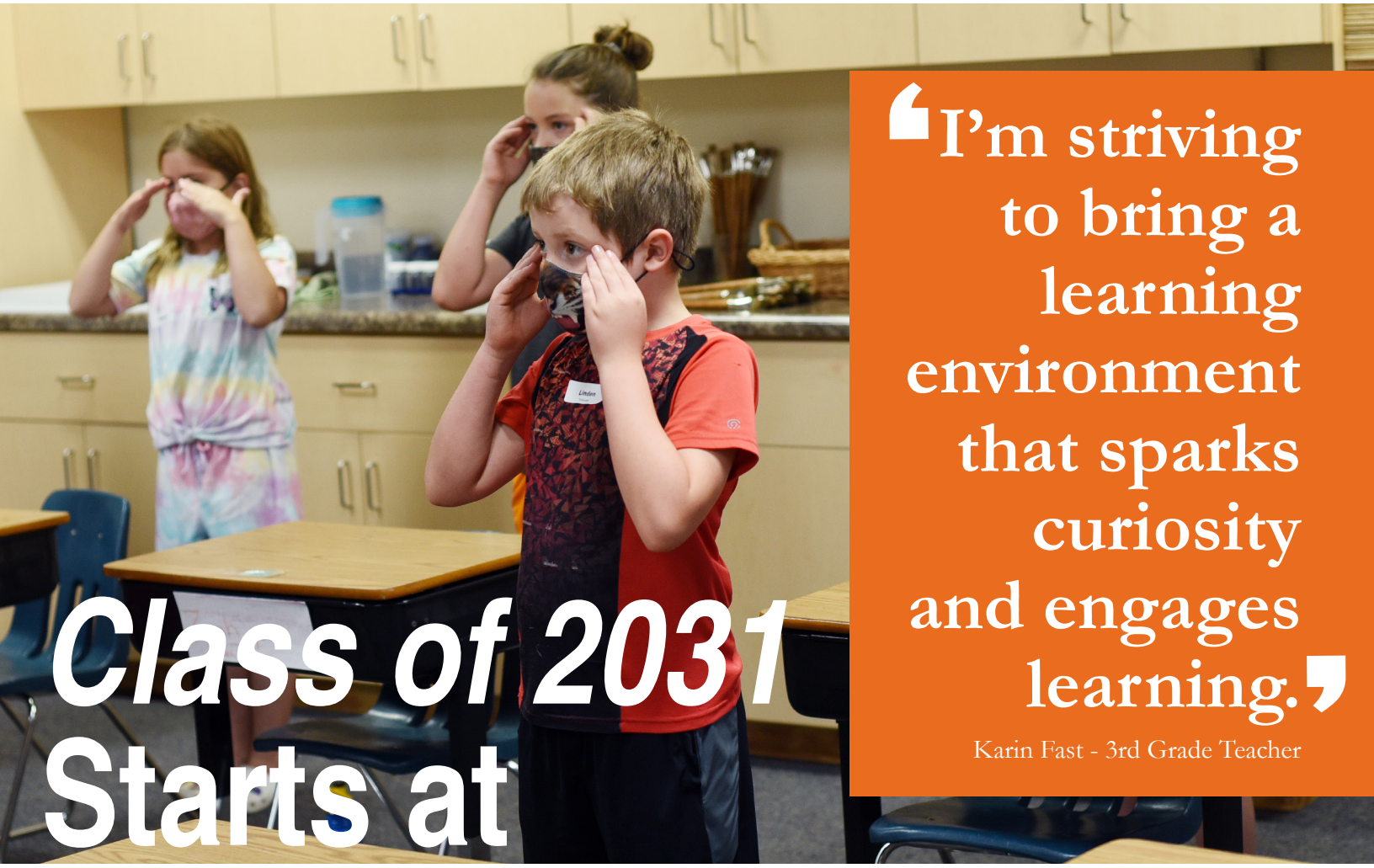
Lorae Weaver ('14) and Nick (Bert) Smith, Goshen, IN, Dec. 11, 2021
Sol Brenneman ('15) and Kaitlyn Troyer, Harrisonburg, VA, July 24, 2021
Tristan Clark ('15) and Collette Miller, Nappanee, IN, Sep. 4, 2021
Megan Duckworth ('17) and Isaac Sponseller, Goshen, IN, July 17, 2021
Tessa Clark ('17) and Will Gaby Mishawaka, IN, Aug. 20, 2021

NOTES

Karen Weldy ('69) started a new job as a chaplain at Eskenazi Health Hospital in Indianapolis, IN

Nancy J. Schaffer ('71) published her most recent book, "Her Story in His Story."

Twila Albrecht ('11) is currently pursuing a Masters in Conflict Management and Resolution from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego.



Class of 2031 Starts at BETHANY

> "I'm striving to bring a learning environment that sparks curiosity and engages learning."
>
> Karin Fast - 3rd Grade Teacher

Our hallways are filled with more joy and laughter this year, as **Bethany welcomed its first-ever third grade class!** These fifteen students embrace their hands-on curriculum through cooking, nature exploration, and countless hours of movement, art, and music.



We look forward to welcoming first and second graders into our building next year, too! These additions continue to move us closer to our goal of offering a complete Bethany education – from kindergarten through high school graduation.



For more information about our unique elementary program, contact Vanessa Adcock, Admissions Director, at 574-534-2567 or vadcock@bethanycs.net.

The high school put on an amazing production of *The Women of Lockerbie*. Pictured on the right is freshman Mara Miller, senior Norah Schloneger, and sophomore Alina Bergstresser.

Seniors involved in the play pose for a picture after a successful production. Pictured below Evelyn Lapadat, Helen Stoy, Reesha Bhagat, Norah Schloneger, Matthew Dyck, Jacob Shank, and Jacob Leininger.







The high school Concert Choir sings during Music on the Lawn. Pictured sophomore Morgan Chupp, senior Caleb Mast, senior Matthew Dyck, and junior Avery Russel.

Junior Sam Klopfenstein and sophomore James Lind perform with the jazz band during Music on the Lawn.





Beginning, intermediate and middle school band and orchestra put on a winter concert.



The ninth grade choir perform at its first in-person concert at Goshen College this fall.

All students in grades 3-12 participate in Bethany is first Christmas Gala called "Unwrap the Nativity."

The donkey was "unwrapped" during the Gala and students asked, "Is a donkey really in the Christmas story told from the Bible?" Well...is it?





In-person *music & performing arts* are BACK!

After nearly 18 months without, we are SO very thankful to be sharing music in-person again with our family, friends, and community. During the fall, we were able to safely perform high school's "Music on the Lawn," as well as high school and middle school choral/band/orchestra concerts. We celebrated the holidays with the first-ever all-school Christmas Gala on December 10. Grades 3-12 shared the stage in Goshen College's Sauder Hall, and presented a program entitled "Unwrap the Nativity" through music, readings, drama, and visual arts.

We're already looking forward to our spring musical, *Godspell*, additional concerts, and more. We hope you can join us!



Alumni REUNION



Class of 1976


BCS Gift Bag
Yearbooks Passes
Request a Song
Hymnal Trivia
BCS Trivia
Write a Message
Tickets
BCS Gift Bag
Remember When...
Request a Song
Hymnal Trivia
BCS Trivia
Write a Message
Tickets




Food trucks are a hit!

We were thrilled to welcome several hundred alumni back to our campus this September for their class reunions! While pandemic precautions still affected attendance and what we could do together, it was great to see how excited folks were to connect in person again. Since no reunions were held in 2020, **we had 26 classes represented** in our gatherings this year, from the class of 1955 all the way to the class of 2016.


Class of 1970

Beginning in the fall of 2022, **Bethany plans to transition to a "homecoming weekend"** model for our annual alumni gathering. Sporting events, alumni guest lectures, food trucks, reunion year class gatherings, music, and more will be offered. Not an "official" reunion year for you? No problem! Come anyway to see what's new on campus, enjoy a fun atmosphere, and catch up with other alumni from across the years.


the school
at the class pictures

Interested in helping imagine this new homecoming weekend into being? Contact Eric Dyck Hilty in the Bethany advancement office at 574-534-2567 or edyckhilty@bethanycs.net.

We can't wait to welcome you back home to Bethany!


Class of 1956

RAISING OUR VOICES *Together*

This fall, the Bethany community began exploring songs and resources in the new Mennonite hymnal, *Voices Together*. Our own vocal music instructor, Bradley Kauffman, served as managing editor on the *Voices Together* project, and has shared many interesting anecdotes about the process of compiling a hymnal, as well as compelling backstories of particular songs. Two high school chapel services were dedicated to understanding the additional worship and visual resources in the hymnal, and new songs have been introduced to all grade levels throughout their music curriculum. If you'd like to help fund some of the expense of purchasing 200 new *Voices Together* hymnals for our chapel, we'd be glad to receive donations. Contact Eric Dyck Hilty in the Bethany advancement office.



Great Strides

UPDATE

We are so excited to see our new athletic complex being constructed on the east side of our campus! Thanks again to the many friends and alumni who gave generously towards the Great Strides Campaign. We look forward to welcoming you all to the new complex for our first soccer games next fall. View our website for drone video footage of the construction, and **stay tuned for an invitation to a ribbon cutting.**



KNOWN by Your Peers

Can your classmates know you better than you know yourself? Several years ago during senior Bible class, teacher Dale Shenk, asked his students to write down the names of two students who they thought would be pastors someday. Elizabeth Eby ('18) didn't think she was going to be on that list, but sure enough, she was. Today Elizabeth thinks her classmates may have been more correct about that prediction than she thought.



Elizabeth is completing her senior year at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) and will be continuing her graduate studies at EMU's Center for Peace and Justice. She is currently a double major in peacebuilding/development and Bible/religion/theology. This past summer she participated in EMU's Ministry Inquiry Program. During her term, she explored the many facets of pastoral ministry at Ridgeway Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

"Bethany provided me with a broad understanding of the Christian faith and vocabulary."

The hardest part for Elizabetha was not knowing anyone, but she quickly made connections with those in the Ridgeway congregation through her Mennonite background, family connections, and involvement in the worship services. She had opportunities to preach and to lead worship, singing, and children's time. She felt good about the feedback and support she received during her stay. "The Ministry Inquiry Program gave me plenty of opportunities to explore my interests and I feel like these opportunities will allow me to grow into this ministry."

Reflecting on her years at Bethany, Elizabeth said, "having opportunities for leadership through speaking in chapel, leading singing, and participating in theater was very formative for me being able to prepare for and speak in front of people."

"Bethany provided me with a broad understanding of the Christian faith and vocabulary."

Pastoral care was not in her original plan and there are more life and work experiences she would like to have. But she is pretty certain she will be attending seminary sometime in the future.

You can read more about Elizabeth's Ministry Inquiry Program experience at emu.edu/now/news/2021/students-sample-congregational-vocations-through-internships-in-ministry/



Known

is being called by name as an individual with unique **God-given** potential and gifts.

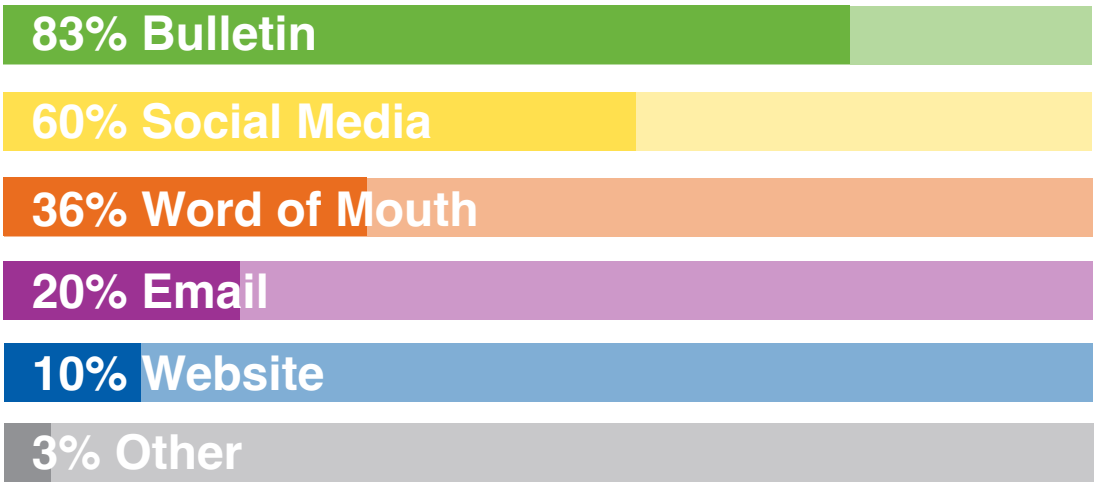
Bulletin
Survey Results

In our last issue of the Bulletin, we asked alumni to give us feedback about the Bulletin. Our goal was to gain insight on what our alumni were getting from the Bulletin and what they wanted to see more of.

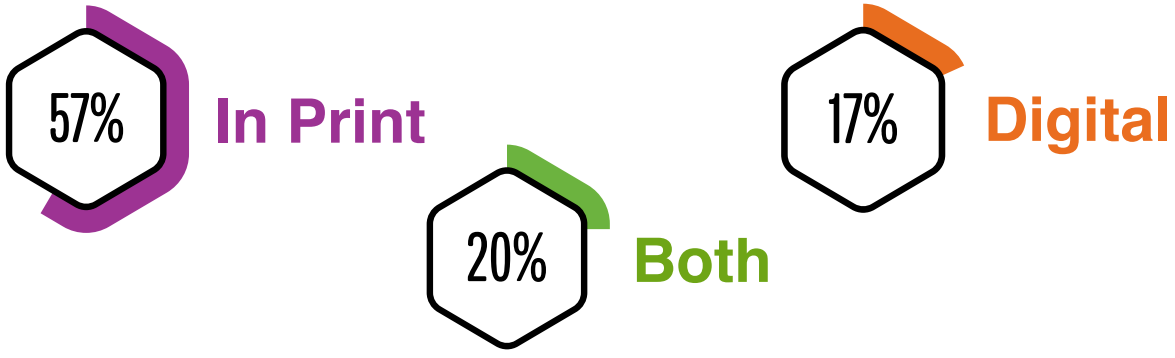
What actions have you taken as a result of reading the Bulletin?

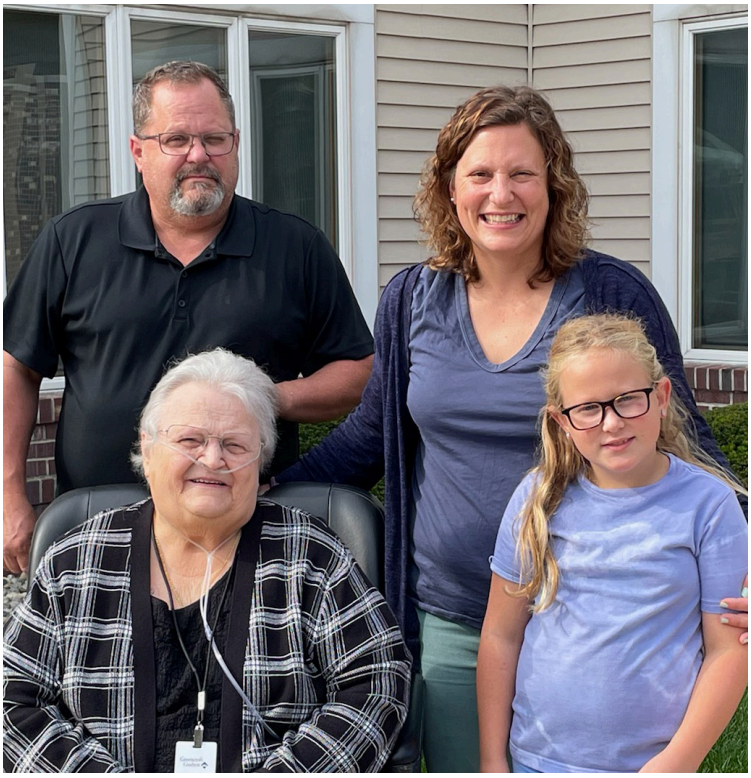
- **46%** Attended an event
- **7%** Contacted a classmate
- **21%** Saved an article or issue
- **46%** Visited the website
- **28%** Made a donation
- **18%** Recommended Bethany
- **25%** No actions taken

How do you generally acquire information about Bethany?



How do you prefer to read the Bulletin?





Pictured in October 2021: Bryan Kehr (’78), Hannah Heinzekehr (’03), the late Genie Kehr (’56), and Ellie Heinzekehr (’31)

Bethany is fortunate to have a 4th-generation student enroll this year. **The Kehr family has supported and loved Bethany** in many ways over the years. Bryan initiated the girls soccer program in 1997. Former head cook, Genie invited soccer players to “Grandma Kehr’s” home for spaghetti meals. Hannah was a student in the first grade 6 class, while her daughter Ellie is in the first grade 3 class.

Loved

is being encouraged by your teachers and feeling safe to be yourself.

15 BCS Student Athletes Receive Academic All-Conference Awards!



At Bethany, we expect our student athletes to be dedicated to their academic success. Participating in athletics, as well as other activities can be a bit of a juggling act for anyone. Fifteen of our student athletes proved that by working hard they can be successful on the field/court *and* in the classroom!

Academic All-Conference Athletes
Boys Soccer: Avery Rusel, Beck Willems
Girls Soccer: Mackenzie Mast, Katie Sauder, Kolette Kern
Cross Country: Caleb Mast, Sam Klopfenstein, Beka Youngberg
Volleyball: Jordana Farran, Hope Hochstedler, Jenna Oostland, Ivonne Ortiz, Kiersten Todd, Bailee Brown, Annika Nice

Transitioning to a leadership role

The pandemic has caused transitions at school and at work. According to national media, we are in a Great Resignation with millions of workers leaving their jobs for a variety of reasons. In Marisa Smucker's ('90) case, she is not leaving her employer but moving into a different role. Marisa accepted a new position at Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) as the Senior Executive for Ventures.

After spending time in Costa Rica, Marissa was drawn back to family in Elkhart and found a job at MMN. She started working with the Pennsylvania and West Coast conferences, including Iglesia Menonita Hispana, assisting them with networking and communicating the work of the mission. In 2019, she became the director of Mennonite Voluntary Service. She says, "It is a Mennonite agency where I could continue to speak Spanish while connecting with Hispanic leaders."

Since last spring, Mennonite Mission Network has been going through a realignment process with the goal of creating greater efficiency. The agency has been restructured from five to three divisions: programming, operations, and advancement. One of the new divisions is Ventures which will be the programming component. In her new work, Marisa will lead the Ventures division in creating partnerships nationally and internationally, providing training and resources for constituents, and making connections with conferences and congregations. Networking for the mission is what continues to excite Marisa the most. While reflecting on her work she said, "I feel like I have had a piece of that in other roles that I have been in and now I get to go a little deeper."

"I enjoy visioning and creative things that come out of processes like this realignment," says Marisa. "I have been in positions where there is transition and change, while those can be hard, it can also bring new life. Looking for ways in which God is working in our denomination, working in the agency, and working with our constituents – this is exciting. I also think about bringing in new



leadership and how we are looking at the younger generation. If we haven't connected or engaged with them as much from a mission agency point of view, how can we do more of that?" Her hope would be to provide more spaces for that engagement, either through exploration, conversation, training, or participation. She sees her leadership in facilitating the process through plenty of teamwork.

Reflecting on her days at Bethany, Marisa thought about her participation on the volleyball and basketball teams. She says, "the team aspect of us working together kind of plays into why I really enjoy working with teams." She also remembers how her teachers were always encouraging. Through experiences in concert choir and participation on the drama team, she felt the skills she acquired were helpful for what she is doing today. **Being vice-president of SBA and a fishhead helped develop organizational skills and prepare her for her current position.**

In challenging today's youth she says, "Even the smallest things that you try out, if you do it for a semester or for just one year, you might be surprised that it might be the thing that propels you into something new or a skill that you learn that you find yourself using periodically throughout your life."

Marisa reminds us, in this time of transitions, as workers become more comfortable going back to work and as

students continue their studies remotely or in-person, it is important to not discount the small things that happen. Who knows what skill will be needed to prepare you for your future work?

For more information about Marisa Smucker and her role at MMN go to https://www.mennonitemission.net/news/4561/MVS-director-to-lead-Mission-Network%E2%80%99s-new-Ventures-division



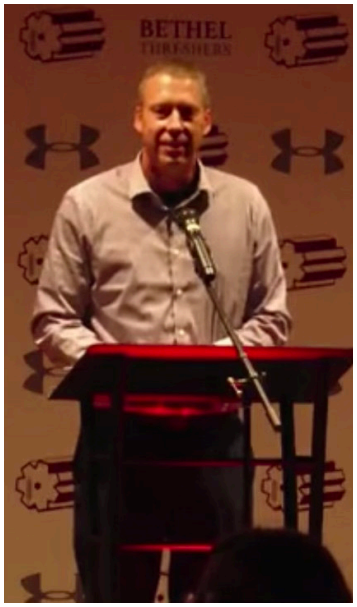
Prepared

is providing a holistic education that prepares students for college by developing skills and experiences that allow them to stand out.

FACULTY NEWS

Two faculty were honored by Mennonite colleges last fall: KP was honored as a Champion of Character at Goshen College and Gary Chupp's 2002-03 Bethel College (Kansas) basketball team was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. **Congratulations to KP and Gary for these recognitions of success and character.**





Welcome

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF!



Michael Walker began as English teacher and Yearbook advisor. Michael is a 2017 graduate of Goshen College where he was an NAIA scholar athlete in baseball. As a ministry leader at GC, Michael was responsible for fostering a welcoming spiritual atmosphere in the care for the emotional needs of peers. Previously Michael taught grade 10 language arts and coaching at Tinora High School in Ohio.

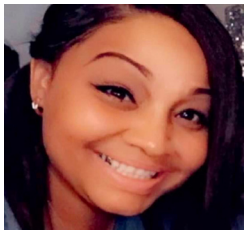
Caitlin Lanctot began as receptionist in August. Previously Caitlin was the office manager at Silverwood Mennonite Church and taught art at Parkside elementary for 5 years. Caitlin and husband Andrew ('00) have two children at BCS: Lily in grade 6 and Jack in grade 4. They also have a future Bruin, Henry, age 6. In Caitlin's spare time, she is a professional artist creating and selling original metalwork and jewelry.





Jeremy Whetstone is responsible for the high school structured study hall. This position is funded by federal title money and arranged by the Elkhart County Special Education Cooperative. Jeremy and wife Katie have several cross-cultural experiences. They hosted two German international students, studied abroad in Mali, and participated in a 3+ month service trip to Nigeria. Utilizing his bachelor of arts in music degree from IUSB, Jeremy teaches guitar in the Nappanee area.

Aeirel Shoun was hired as a custodian in March. Aeirel is from Elkhart and was working as a custodian for Bashor Children's Home for the past 4 years. She has three teenage children, attends Kingdom Impact Church, and is currently studying elementary education at Goshen College. She likes working with the staff at Bethany and finds it a positive, friendly, and peaceful work environment.





Tri Sumarni is a volunteer at Bethany Christian Schools. She comes from Pati, Indonesia, a small village found in the Central Java Islands. Tri has a degree in education and has completed consultation work, tutoring, and online teaching in languages and art. Tri found out about MCC's International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) through GITJ Mennonite church, her home congregation. She is the middle child with three brothers and a sister who all reside near her parents. At Bethany she assists teachers. Her dreams for the future are to develop a school in her home country.

Marilyn Coleman was hired as a custodian in October. Marilyn is from Elkhart and has worked in manufacturing as well as maintenance and cleaning. She is a mother of 3 children and has 7 grandchildren. She enjoys working at Bethany and finds the people friendly.



Bethany Christian Schools

ENROLLING

1st-12th grades

for the 2022-23 school year!

Visit Mornings
K-5 students 9:30-11:00 am.
Parents must be in attendance.
- February 17, 2022
- March 17, 2022

Visit Day
Rising 6th-10th graders. 8:30-3:30 pm.
- February 21, 2022

Open House
Financial Aid & Indiana School Choice Information, tour of the school, & meet some teachers.
1:00-2:30 pm.
- March 6, 2022

Individual Visit
Call 574-534-2567 or visit bethanycs.net to schedule your individual visit.

Go to bethanycs.net/visitbcs/ to schedule your visit TODAY!



Bethany CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
2904 South Main Street
Goshen, IN 46526-5499

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DATES TO KNOW

FEBRUARY

Feb. 11 - UB Bruin Club
register at bethanycs.net/ubbruinclub/

Feb. 17 - Visit Morning for grades 3-5
register at bethanycs.net/visitbcs/

Feb. 21 - Visit Day for Prospective Students
(6-10 grades) register at bethanycs.net/visitbcs/

MARCH

Mar. 3-6 - HS Musical - *Godspell*

Mar. 6 - Open House/Financial Aid
register at bethanycs.net/visitbcs/

Mar. 11 - Winter Break

Mar. 17 - Visit Morning for grades 3-5
register at bethanycs.net/visitbcs/

Mar. 18 - UB Bruin Club
register at bethanycs.net/ubbruin/

APRIL

April 1-8 - Spring Break

April 15 - Good Friday, No School

April 22 - Junior Class Fish Fry

MAY

May 6 - GrandFriends Day

May 6-7 - MS Play

May 27 - Last day of School

May 29 - Commencement

JUNE

June 6-10 - Bright Time Camp
early bird registration opens April 18 at bethanycs.net/brighttime22/



To stay connected with all the latest happenings at Bethany, follow us on